

has been evolved out of it since its introduction.

The instructions of those holy men have never been improved. "Look ye out men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost, and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over the business." Acts, 6:3. In these instructions are contained the basic principles of all deaconship.

1. He must be an honest man. 2. He must be a spiritual man. 3. He must be a man of wisdom. The honest man is very nicely described in Psa. 15. "He that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness and speaketh the truth in his heart, that backbiteth not with his tongue nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor." V. 2-3. He must be a spiritual man. "To be carnally minded is death, to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Carnality is enmity against God. If he has not the spirit of Christ he is none of his." Rom. 8:7-9. The deacon in his official relation is a conservator of the spiritual forces of the church, to advise in conjunction with the pastor and direct its aggressiveness against sin. Hence his need of spirituality and wisdom. This latter qualification is of God, and to be sought and obtained thru humble prayer. "If he lack wisdom let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not and it shall be given him" James 1:5. The character of this wisdom is clearly pointed out; it is pure, peaceable, gentle and easily entreated, full of mercy, good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:11. Paul to Timothy describes or enumerates the qualities necessary to the make up of the deacon. If followed strictly much of the defects now existing would be avoided. "He must be grave, not double-tongued, not given to wine (or any intoxicants) nor greedy of filthy lucre, holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience, and let them first be proved then use the office of a deacon. He must not be a bigamist, and he must rule his own house well. This latter qualification is too often overlooked entirely, and is detrimental to church work in every instance.

If all these qualities obtain in a deacon he will be faithful and aggressive in the work of Christ and the church. Let us summarize. We do not purpose to be lengthy in our paper. The deacon must be honest, spiritual, wise. These are purely scriptural qualifications and we have shown that they are gifts from God, to be obtained by seeking for them in humble, confiding prayer. *Results*—purity, peace, gentleness, reasonableness, mercy, impartiality, not hypocritical, but a man of God. For such an official his duties need scarcely to be pointed out, they will be in him and abounding, a man who can say the love of God constraineth me." He will not wait for opportunities he will make them. There will be no compromise with sin in any form. He will be the ready, willing, earnest, reliable counselor with the pastor in all emergencies. The

kind, affectionate, spiritual advisor of the weak ones of the flock, assisting them in all their embarrassments and weaknesses. "His meat and his drink" will be to promote the cause of righteousness and to build up Christ's kingdom among men. The functions of a deacon, as exemplified in the life of Philip, one of the seven, is something more than the table service, looking after neglected widows in the daily ministrations. "He preached Christ unto the Samaritans." Acts 8:5. He thru the power of the Holy Ghost cast out unclean spirits, healed the lame and palsied. Yea more, when "the people believed his preaching concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ he baptized them, both men and women." Act 8:12. Did he abuse, misuse, or transcend the functions of his office?

Nay, for when Peter and John visited the scenes of his labors they sanctioned the work and engaged with him in fervent prayer that the converts might receive the Holy Ghost, for as yet he had not fallen on any of them. Acts 8:15. Phillip, tho but a deacon, preached the word acceptably to the Ethiopian, baptized him and sent him on his way rejoicing. That there may be no mistake about this matter we find Paul on his third missionary tour coming to Caesarea and entering the house of Phillip, the Evangelist, which was one of the seven, and abode with him. Acts 22:8. Phillip had used the office of a deacon well, he had purchased to himself a good degree and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. He ruled his own house well, evidenced by his family, his four virgin daughters were prophetesses. He had developed into an Evangelist, a thought we fear overlooked a lesson for us. The pastor should supervise the centers of work, the deacons the outposts and thus assist in promoting and carrying on the work. "The harvest is plenteous the laborers are few." It appears to us that in the deacon's office we have a partial solution, at least, of the pressing need of the Brethren church at this time—more laborers. We should elect our best qualified young brethren to this office, lay its duties upon them, have them exercise in it. Many of them will develop into evangelists as did Phillip, and lasting good will be the result. The deacon or deacons, in connection with the pastor, should constitute an official board to which all church matters should be referred before being brought before the congregation. In short, this board possibly in conjunction with the clerk, should supervise and arrange all the ecclesiastical and evangelizing operations of the entire congregation. In this way unity and harmony may be maintained among the believers and the beautiful simplicity of apostolic times, of being of one heart and one soul exemplified to the world. The office of deacon is second to none except that of pastor or bishop. The importance of it should be held up to the congregation, its incumbents should be exhorted to magnify the office, that out of it may come strong spiritual advisers, public

teachers, able to expound the word of God, monuments of grace which is in Christ Jesus, leading, in connection with the pastor, the lambs as well as the sheep into the ever-green fields of eternal life. Have we over-drawn the picture?

The office is of God. Let him magnify it. May the church appreciate and honor it, that in the fullness of time we may all, pastors, deacons, laity, in "the unity of the spirit, in the bond of peace," "come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." "For the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which ever joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Eph. 4:3, 13-16.

CHRISTIAN HEROISM

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While sitting in the stillness of my room, one day, my heart was thrilled with a genuine inspiration, as I pondered over some great names that have made humanity immortal; men and women who have carried its sorrows and its hopes upon their hearts, who by the pureness and beauty of their lives, have illumined the dark places of earth, and have left behind them, the lustre of nobility, that can never fade and filled the air with heroism that can never die.

While reading on of some quiet, simple, yet noble lives that were lived for Christ, a memory gem I learned when a child came to my mind, seemingly more forceful than ever before: "The world knows nothing of its greatest men." How true, and yet how little is it realized. It may not be ours, to do the heroic deed, that in a few moments of time, will be echoed from pole to pole; it may not be ours to face the cannons mouth or the rush of a mighty army, but, dear friends, it is ours to live heroic Christian lives. Lives that might put the world's so-called heroes, to shame. I wonder if some of them could have witnessed the death of some of our Christian martyrs, whether it would not have caused them to shrink, with their own littleness. I wonder if the glare of light that shone from the flames that burned Latimer and Ridley at the stake, does not cast a shadow over some of the shining monuments of our "world's heroes." Think of the heroism, that coursed thru the veins of Latimer as he turned to Ridley by his side and said, while the fagots were being lighted about them, "We are lighting such a candle in England as will never be put out."

Do you tell me that silent heroism is soon forgotten on earth? What of it? God's memory is equalled by no flame on earth and just as soon would he forget to let the stars shine in all their brilliancy, as to forget the silent, loving deeds, of a self sacrificing spirit. Do we not find the greatest Christian heroism of to day, in silent lives that pass unnoticed, by the world's moving